



Equine Affaire's Versatile Horse & Rider Competition

November 10, 2023

Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA

WHAT IS THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION?

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be a timed and judged race through an obstacle course created to test communication between horse and rider as well as each competitor's horsemanship skills. The competition will be suitable for riders of any discipline and horses of all breeds. As the horse and rider teams work through each obstacle they will be judged on several criteria as well as overall performance. The competition will be judged by Greg Robinson and emceed by Noah Rattner. Contestants will compete for \$5500 in cash as well as other prizes.

THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION AT EQUINE AFFAIRE

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will take place on Friday, November 11, 2023, in the Coliseum at the Eastern States Exposition. A maximum of 25 horse and rider combinations will compete on Friday afternoon.

THE COMPETITION COURSE

Constructed within the 95' x 200' parameters of the Eastern States Exposition's Coliseum the course will feature numerous trail obstacles and riding challenges, including activities such as: jumping over obstacles, backing up through a pattern, pole bending or roll backs, various gymkhana games, working gates, riding over or through "spooky objects," etc.

OBJECTIVES AND JUDGING

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be a timed event during which the performance of each horse and rider team will be judged on each obstacle for quality of horsemanship. For each obstacle, the judge will award performance points on a scale of 0-5 based on the horse's attitude, the rider's horsemanship, and the team's overall performance. Horses and riders will be required to complete each obstacle within a given time to receive points. If an obstacle is not completed within the given timeframe, the contestant will be flagged and must move on to the next obstacle. Overall time will be translated into points, and points from each obstacle will be totaled. The horse and rider team with the highest overall point score wins.

THE PRIZES

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four contestants. The first-place team will receive \$2,500 and the title of "2023 Equine Affaire Versatile Horse & Rider Champion"; the second place team will receive \$1,750; the third place team will receive \$1,000; and the fourth place team will receive \$250. All competitors will receive a complimentary T-shirt. Any additional prizes will be announced prior to the event, and all prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the final phase of the competition on Friday.

HOW TO APPLY

The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition will be open to riders age 18 and over and horses of all breeds. All riders and horses will compete against each other; there will be no age or gender divisions. Interested riders may apply to compete by downloading an entry form at equineaffaire.com or by calling Equine Affaire at (740) 845-0085 to receive an application by mail.

To be considered to ride in the competition, you must submit the following:

- 1) **Completed Versatile Horse & Rider Application** form
- 2) Signed **Versatile Horse & Rider Rules**
- 3) **Video:** The video should contain up to five minutes of video footage and must show you and your horse schooling, competing, or working at walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope; it will be used to evaluate your horsemanship skills and your horse's ability. Suggested elements to include on the video are: jumping, working gates, walking over a tarp, gymkhana games, trail obstacles, etc. All videos must be uploaded to Youtube.com or Vimeo.
- 4) **Entry Fee:** The entry fee for each horse/rider team is \$360.00 (made payable to Equine Affaire, Inc.) Checks or credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) are accepted for payment of application fees. If submitting check(s), please send one check for each horse with which you have applied. If paying via credit card, an electronic invoice will be emailed to the email address supplied on the application once

selections have been made. Competitor will provide payment online upon receipt of invoice. A 2% convenience fee will be added for credit card charges. Checks and credit cards will be deposited/processed once the selected applicants have been notified of acceptance. Any checks for applicants not selected will be voided.

Individual riders may compete with more than one horse, but they must submit a separate application, fee, and video for each horse they wish to enter.

Deadline: Applications, videos, and a signed copy of the Versatile Horse & Rider Rules must be received by Equine Affaire, Inc. by September 8, 2023. Applications and support materials will be accepted until this deadline; they will be reviewed by the management of Equine Affaire, Inc. who will select the final contestants for the race. Participants will be selected by October 2, 2023, and contestants will be notified by phone and/or email. Applicants who are not selected will receive notification by email. Entry fees will be returned to applicants who are not selected. ***The entry fees of accepted contestants are nonrefundable.***

STABLING & ADMISSION TO EQUINE AFFAIRE

One horse stall will be provided for each horse entered in the competition. The stall will be available for use beginning at noon on Wednesday, November 8, and must be vacated by 9:00am on Saturday, November 11. If you cannot remove your horse(s) from the barn by Saturday morning, you must contact the Barn Manager to make special arrangements. All horses must be removed from the barns no later than midnight on Sunday, November 12. Participants are responsible for bringing or purchasing their own feed and bedding. Straw, shavings, hay, and feed will be available for purchase on site. One tack stall per competitor may be purchased for \$100 (Wednesday through Saturday morning). Each contestant will receive three single-day admission tickets to Equine Affaire as part of his or her entry fee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMPETING IN THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION AT EQUINE AFFAIRE:

1. Contestants may check in at the Barn Office in C-Barn at the Eastern States Exposition beginning at noon on Wednesday, November 8 and 9:00am or on Thursday, November 9h. Upon checking in, contestants will receive a copy of the obstacle course map and instructions and the participant Order of Go. A Contestants Meeting will be conducted in the afternoon on Thursday, November 9.
2. The Versatile Horse & Rider Competition at Equine Affaire will offer a unique and exciting opportunity to test your horsemanship and compete for cash and other prizes. Please be aware that the competition will be conducted in a large arena where there are likely to be large crowds in attendance. While there will be an arena available for schooling and exercising horses, opportunities to warm up or practice in the coliseum will not be available. If you and/or your horse cannot function well in such an environment, we cannot encourage you to compete.
3. All horses brought to the Eastern States Exposition Center must be free of illness and infectious disease.
 - **Any horse transported to the event** must be accompanied by a negative test result for equine infectious anemia (Coggins Test) dated within one year of November 12, 2023.
 - **Any horse transported to the event** must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health papers) issued within 30 days of the date on which the horse arrives at the event. *The certificate must state that these equines do not originate from a quarantined area, or an area where a contagious or infectious disease has been officially diagnosed.*
 - While not required, it is strongly recommended that all equines be vaccinated for rabies, tetanus, EEE/WEE, and Flu/Rhino within one year of the event.
 - **Each horse owner/trainer is required to present the required health papers to the show veterinarian upon check in.**
4. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to monitor the progress of the competition and be at the west entrance of the Coliseum by the time the contestant that is listed two riders higher on the Order of Go enters the ring. For their safety, all contestants are encouraged to wear approved riding helmets.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VERSATILE HORSE & RIDER COMPETITION?

Please contact Coagi Long at (740) 845-0085 ext. 114 or via email at clong@equineaffaire.com.